

NO DROP IN PRICES SEEN TILL SPRING

Arbitrary Reduction in Rates Would Bring Famine, Expert Asserts

LACK OF SUPPLY IS KEEPING THEM UP

Hartigan Plan Will Cause Dearth of Foodstuffs, Large Dealer Says

Lower food prices will not come this winter, according to provision experts canvassed yesterday by The Tribune. The reason is lack of supply, due partly to increased export, but more largely to increased domestic consumption and slack production.

Arbitrary lowering of prices, regardless of natural economic conditions, it was declared, would stimulate consumption, exhaust the small but carefully conserved supplies and bring actual famine conditions.

Canned fruits and vegetables, which have jumped in price from 20 to 40 per cent, will not recede to their old figures for two years, it is said.

Butter, eggs and cheese prices will drop in the spring, but not before. Meanwhile they may go higher.

No Lower Prices Yet

Prices of vegetables and fruits will depend entirely upon next year's production, but it is expected there will be no lower prices until the 1917 crop is on the market.

Charles F. Droste, head of Droste & Snyder, Inc., butter and egg merchants, was asked why eggs were so high.

"Because," he replied, "the world is short on eggs. New York consumes 90,000 20-dozen cases each week, or 420,000 cases in excess of its weekly supply. New York is using 11 per cent more eggs than it was last year at this time. This 42,000-case excess is drawn from the warehouse supply, which is 30 per cent less than normal. At this rate our warehouses will be empty by February 1. There will be no surplus, and as current production only half meets the demand eggs may go much higher until the new crop begins to come, the last part of February or the first of March."

The butter situation, Mr. Droste said, was much the same, consumption exceeding production by about 70,000 pounds weekly.

Supply Will Have Gone

"But public officials," he was reminded, "are making statements that the high food prices are due to speculation, and demand that prices must come down."

"All right," answered Mr. Droste, "suppose Mr. Hartigan lowers the price of eggs or butter or what-not. Take eggs and let us see what will happen. People will commence buying more eggs, and Europe will jump into the market with both feet."

"By January 1 our small but carefully conserved supply will have vanished. There will be a real famine, with no eggs at all and no butter, unless nature should miraculously come to our rescue with summer weather in January and induce the hens to lay."

"Should the price go down, I as a merchant would go out on the market and buy up all I could and export them or hold them for higher prices. Lower prices now would put trump cards in the hands of the speculators. Europe's eggs cost 45 cents and up wholesale, transported on the other side. The present prices safeguard our surplus against depletion by export."

Profits for Farmer

Last year \$1.75 a barrel for potatoes was paid farmers by the shippers. Now farmers are asking and receiving \$4.25.

"The cause is lack of production," explained Charles H. Stege, president of the Receivers and Distributors' Association. "The government report shows the potato crop is less than half what it was a year ago. New York growers who exported to dig 140 bushels to the acre are digging from forty to sixty."

"The next biggest producing state is Michigan, where an early October freeze practically killed the crop. Cold weather decimated the Colorado yield. Maine alone escaped. Maine potatoes have been going to New Orleans, Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit since September. Those markets pay \$1 a barrel more than the New York wholesaler will."

According to a representative of Kemp, Day & Co., wholesalers in canned goods, the same story of crop shortage accounts for the high prices of these staples. Export trade cut down the reserve stock, and this year's goods went into consumption almost at once.

Canned Goods to Stay High

Although fruits and vegetables may be more plentiful next year, the increased price of materials, chiefly tin, and of labor probably will keep canned goods near their present prices for two years.

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The Absolutely Pure Unadulterated. Perfect for Medical Use. Exquisitely Delicate for Mayonnaise.

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Opposite Keweenaw Theatre

LEGISLATORS AD PLAN FOR MARKET

Dillon Finds That Upstate Members Favor Big Plant Here

ITS COST MAY REACH \$3,000,000

Three Women Start Country-Wide Move to Increase Dollar's Power

Retail Coal Men Blamed for Present Panic Prices

District Attorney Swann is now working on a theory that New York retail coal dealers are responsible for the panic prices quoted by them early this month.

From information that is held to be reliable, the prosecutor learns that the retailers conspired to create a false impression that there was an unprecedented scarcity of coal.

"We have been informed," said Assistant District Attorney Markewich, in charge of the coal inquiry, "that the shortage of coal was really insignificant. So far we have found that the prices charged at the mines were normal, compared with the exorbitant rates asked for by the local retailers."

At out of the coal inquiry, Mr. Markewich will subpoena members of the Coal Merchants' Association, the retailers' organization, to verify the report before the grand jury to-morrow.

Arthur F. Rice, commissioner for the association, was called to the District Attorney's office last week to tell what he knew about the cause of the rise in coal prices. Mr. Rice had testified, principally to shortage of coal cars and labor at the mines.

MUCH FOOD FOR ALLIES

Boston's Storage Houses' Capacity To Be Shipped, Says Commissioner

Boston, Nov. 25.—P. H. Mulhoney, Deputy Health Commissioner, who has been conducting an investigation into the food supply in cold storage plants here, reported to Mayor Curley to-day that on November 23 there were 10,650,000 pounds of meat in storage, not one pound of which was intended for home consumption.

Virtually the entire amount has been contracted for by the Allies and is awaiting the arrival of an Italian boat, according to Dr. Mulhoney.

After receiving the report the Mayor sent a letter to Representative John J. Fitzgerald again urging the desirability of an embargo on the shipment of food. The Mayor pointed out that the supply of meat for home consumption was merely the amount in dealers' private refrigerating plants, which he estimated was sufficient to last only four days.

SINGER'S HUSBAND INDICTED

Discharged in Tombs Court on Bigamy Charge, Schroeder Is Rearrested

George A. Schroeder, of 243 West Twenty-second Street, who is alleged to have three other wives besides Mrs. Sophie T. Traubmann, a former Metropolitan opera star, was rearrested before Magistrate Brough, in the Tombs court, yesterday on a charge of bigamy.

He was discharged. As he turned to leave the courtroom Detective Barney Flood, of the District Attorney's office, arrested him on a bench warrant issued by Judge Delehanty.

Indicted by the grand jury yesterday on a similar charge, he will be arraigned before Judge Delehanty in General Sessions, Monday morning.

Schroeder is married to Mrs. Traubmann, September 19, 1914, by Alderman Readman at the City Hall.

SINGED POWHATAN IS SAFE

Passengers Transferred at Providence—Fire Extinguished

Providence, Nov. 25.—The Merchants and Miners' Steamship Powhatan arrived here to-night. Her passengers were transferred to the steamship Junata, which immediately left for Baltimore. A fire which early in the day forced the Powhatan to put in at Block Island had been extinguished, and it was said that there was no great damage to the boat.

As soon as the cargo is straightened out, probably to-morrow, the Powhatan will continue her trip to Baltimore.

business ideas to the business of running the home. Also, they plan a campaign through the newspapers, schools, churches and even the movies for educating the housewife. In this connection it was said that D. W. Griffith was planning a photoplay serial to show the manner of production and distribution of foods, with a special chapter devoted to "food gamblers."

Good News for Consumer

Good news to New York consumers reached the office of Joseph Hartigan, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, yesterday, when his inspectors reported that an immediate drop in the prices of potatoes, turkeys and cranberries would result from conditions holders of these supplies were facing.

The lower prices on potatoes, it was explained, were due to the fact that speculators responsible for high rates had overreached themselves and that an automatic boycott had resulted. Consumers have ceased to purchase potatoes to such an extent that the

supply yesterday was reported as far ahead of the demand.

Meanwhile farmers on Long Island, New York and New Jersey began to bring forth their stored supplies of potatoes and throw them upon the market. It is predicted that potatoes which were bringing \$7 a barrel last week will be sold for \$4.50 and \$5 to-morrow.

Much the same situation was present in the turkey market, where prospects of high prices have caused small dealers to contract only to fill orders of consumers. These orders are so slow in coming in that it is predicted that Thanksgiving Eve will find turkeys being offered at much lower prices than last year. Yesterday's quotations, however, were higher.

Cranberries are being shipped into the city in large quantities, chiefly because of the big crop, due to an unusually wet spring. It was predicted yesterday that the sauce part of the Thanksgiving dinner would go at un-

heard of low prices, even if the turkey was causing some worry just now.

Wicks Body Will Call

Dillon and Hartigan

The Wicks committee plans to devote next week to an investigation of the market situation, it was announced yesterday. The first witness will be John J. Dillon, State Commissioner of Food and Markets, who will be heard Tuesday.

Joseph Hartigan, the Mayor's Commissioner of Weights and Measures, will probably be called next.

Both will be asked to give the committee the benefit of their experience with a view to determining if any relief can be obtained through state or municipal markets.

Commissioner Dillon will be questioned as to the practicability of the idea, and will be asked to tell how the commission men view his plan, as

well as the obstacles which have confronted him in his attempt to bring the producer and consumer together.

Wages Up for Thread Workers

A 10 per cent increase in wages will go into effect at the Willimantic, Conn., mills of the American Thread Company on December 4. About 2,700 employees will benefit, and it is understood that a similar increase will be made in other mills of the concern, affecting in all about 8,000 persons.

This is the third wage increase in the thread company's mills since January 1, the aggregate being 23 per cent.

Headquarters for Jewish Fund

Headquarters for the workers who are trying to complete the \$2,000,000 fund for the Federation of Jewish Philanthropic Societies will be opened at the Hotel Biltmore on Friday.

LIVE AS IN STONE AGE

An Indian tribe in Bolivia shuns the white and lives as in the stone age, making tools and weapons of stone, bone and wood.

BUYING TO PLEASE THE CANARY

She had been sitting in the furniture shop for nearly two hours, inspecting their stock of linoleum. Roll after roll the perspiring assistant brought out, but still she seemed dissatisfied. When he had shown her the last roll he paused in despair.

"I'm sorry, madam," he said apologetically, "but if you could wait I could get some more pieces from the factory."

The prospective customer gathered her belongings together and rose from the chair.

"Yes, do," she said with a gracious smile; "and ask them to send you one or two with very small designs, suitable for putting in the bottom of a canary's cage."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF FRENCH WAR ORPHANS

(INCORPORATED 1916)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: EQUITABLE BUILDING

120 Broadway (Rooms 1435-6) New York City

Appeal for Orphan Children of French Soldiers who have died in defense of France

It is reported that the number of French orphans who will ultimately need aid will be in excess of 400,000, and that there are at the present time 200,000 in ACTUAL WANT. The stupendous and crushing burden of the war will not permit the French Government to pay more than 10 francs (\$2) per month per orphan, and it is NECESSARY FOR PRIVATE CHARITY TO CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST 15 FRANCS (\$3) PER MONTH ADDITIONAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF EACH CHILD.

The AMERICAN SOCIETY has pledged itself to help several thousand orphans during the six months commencing November 1, and it desires to increase the number as speedily as possible and to extend the period of assistance. It will be doubly helpful to those in need if they can be assured at the outset of this winter, which will be exceptionally hard upon France that fixed aid from Americans can be relied upon to prevent actual suffering among orphans.

The needs of the WAR ORPHANS OF FRANCE peculiarly call for American sympathy and help, and it would be fitting if, at this period of NATIONAL THANKSGIVING, Americans contributed, each according to his means, to the

FRENCH WAR ORPHANS FUND

now being raised by the American Society and thereby joined in extending a helping hand to France in a way most helpful to her and most likely to touch the hearts of her people, who are facing unparalleled calamities in a spirit of lofty patriotism which has thrilled the whole world. Americans should avail of this opportunity to relieve, so far as lies in their power, the orphaned and suffering children of French soldiers, and in that manner make some return for the SERVICES and SACRIFICES of the FRANCE of LAFAYETTE and ROCHAMBEAU at the time of the American Revolution WHEN AMERICA NEEDED HELP. EVERY contribution, however small, will tend to increase the number of orphans whom the American Society can undertake to succor, and will help to discharge the debt for which Washington pledged our "most unalterable gratitude."

The AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF FRENCH WAR ORPHANS has been incorporated under the laws of the State of New York for the purpose of

- (1) Raising funds by voluntary contributions to be used for the aid and relief of needy French children whose fathers have lost their lives as the result of the present war in Europe, and
- (2) Systematizing and centralizing the collection of funds in the United States for that purpose and their effective distribution in France.

Its membership is divided into (1) "Founders," who contribute \$500 or more per annum; (2) "Benefactors," who contribute \$250 per annum; (3) "Sustaining Members," who contribute \$100 per annum, and (4) "Contributing Members," who contribute less than \$100 per annum.

The American Society undertakes, by means of its membership dues and a guaranty fund, to defray ALL the EXPENSES of management, collection and distribution of contributions for FRENCH WAR ORPHANS in order that the ENTIRE AMOUNT contributed for the aid and relief of these HELPLESS CHILDREN may be applied to their needs without any deduction for expenses of any kind, here or abroad.

The AMERICAN SOCIETY solicits contributions to its WAR ORPHANS FUND in order to be able to pledge fixed monthly aid towards the support of as large a number of FRENCH WAR ORPHANS as possible at the rate of three dollars a month for each child.

DONATIONS to the FRENCH WAR ORPHANS FUND should be sent by checks or post office money orders to the order of THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF FRENCH WAR ORPHANS enclosed with a subscription, in the form of the blank at the foot of this announcement, to "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF FRENCH WAR ORPHANS, 120 Broadway, New York City," where all communications should be addressed.

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(Name of subscriber)

Address

November....., 1916.

It is expected that the organization known as THE FATHERLESS CHILDREN OF FRANCE will be absorbed by and act as a branch of the AMERICAN SOCIETY.